

# **U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management**

## **Student Career Experience Program (SCEP)**

**SCEP provides Surveying and Civil Engineering Students:**

- < Opportunity to combine academic and career goals as a Land Surveyor**
- < Eligibility for Federal employment upon graduation**
- < Tuition Assistance**
- < Nationwide opportunities in the following locations:**

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>C Alaska</b>     | <b>• New Mexico</b>       |
| <b>C Arizona</b>    | <b>• Oregon</b>           |
| <b>C California</b> | <b>• Utah</b>             |
| <b>C Colorado</b>   | <b>• Virginia</b>         |
| <b>C Idaho</b>      | <b>• Washington, D.C.</b> |
| <b>C Montana</b>    | <b>• Wyoming</b>          |
| <b>C Nevada</b>     |                           |

**Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.**

**The Bureau of Land Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

## **Student Career Experience Program**

### **HR-00-08A (Amendment 1)**

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#### ***The BLM***

The Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, today administers what remains of the Nation's once vast land holdings - 267 million acres or about one-eighth of the Nation. BLM also manages the mineral estate underlying 560 million acres. Most of the lands managed by BLM are located in 12 Western states, including Alaska, although small parcels are scattered across the eastern United States. With BLM's unique mandate of multiple-use management, the agency's responsibilities are varied and complex.

The mission of today's BLM is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for use and enjoyment of present and future generations." While this sounds straightforward enough, it can be a real challenge when the same parcel of land contains grazing land desired by ranchers, coal reserves wanted by industry, and wilderness characteristics valued by environmental groups. Throughout its 50-year history, BLM has been challenged to meet these needs, demands, and perceptions. This has required BLM employees to be innovative and forward thinking.

#### ***Land Surveyors***

Land surveying is concerned with establishing, investigating, and reestablishing land and property boundaries, and with preparing plats and legal descriptions for tracts of land. For a BLM surveyor, charting the boundaries of the public lands is part mathematical, part legal, part records searching, part public relations, and lots of hard physical work. As a BLM surveyor, you may be

called upon to go to Washington, D.C. to search archives for 100-year-old documents. You may have to camp out on a river and search for old stone monuments that were first set in the 1870s. Or, you may spend days at the law library researching case law in order to decide what is the proper way to determine a specific boundary problem.

To qualify for a SCEP position as a Land Surveyor, students must be pursuing a degree in land surveying or a degree in civil engineering with a surveying option/emphasis. If the degree is in civil engineering, the student must complete the following prior to graduation:

- C At least 6 semester hours of surveying,
- C 3 semester hours of land law, and
- C 21 additional semester hours in any combination of the following: surveying, photogrammetry, geodetic surveying, geodesy, route surveying, remote sensing, cartography, survey astronomy, land information systems, computer-aided mapping, aerial photo interpretation, and survey analysis and adjustments.

#### ***SCEP Program Goals***

SCEP creates a pipeline of talented and motivated students for entry-level positions and to ensure a diverse and highly qualified professional workforce for the future. Emphasis will be on providing students with developmental work experiences related to their academic programs.

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#### ***Program***

SCEP provides you an opportunity to gain valuable work experience while you are still in school. 15 selections will be made from this announcement.

#### ***Competitive Salary and Benefits***

Competitive salary varies, depending upon your educational level, related experience, and duty location. The Federal government salary and benefits package is comparable to most large companies in the United States. In addition to your salary, you will:

- earn 13 paid vacation and 13 sick days each year (vacation days increase after 3 years)
- receive 10 paid holidays,
- receive annual “cost of living” increases,
- be able to participate in the Federal Employees Retirement System,
- be able to participate in the Thrift Savings Plans (similar to a 401k plans - up to 5% matching government contribution), and
- be eligible to receive health and life insurance.

As you advance in your duties and responsibilities, so does your grade level. Many opportunities for advancement and relocation exist in BLM.

#### ***How it Works***

We provide you with formal periods of work and study while you are attending school. It requires a commitment by you, your school, and BLM.

attending school or you may alternate periods of employment with school. This allows students to work in different parts of the country.

#### ***Permanent Employment Upon Graduation***

Once you have completed 640 hours of career-related work and have graduated, you become eligible for conversion to a permanent appointment in the Federal government. However, appointment upon successful completion of the program is not guaranteed.

#### ***Qualifications Requirements***

Students must be enrolled in an associate degree (with plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree), a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate degree program in a related field taking at least a half-time academic course load (6 semester hours); be a US citizen; and have and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale).

The student and their school must enter into an agreement with the BLM as to the nature of the work assignments, the schedule of work, work assignments and class attendance, evaluation procedures, and requirements for continuation and successful completion of the program.

#### ***Tuition Assistance and Travel Expenses***

\$1500 per school year in tuition assistance may be made available to students hired under this program, with the stipulation that the amount provided by BLM cannot and will not exceed the actual cost of tuition. Transportation expenses between work and school may be provided.

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***Application Procedures***

To apply for the BLM Student Career Experience Program, you will need to submit the following.

**A completed application coversheet** (attached)

**A resume or Federal Application (OF-612)**, to include the following information:

Your name, address, and phone number  
Your work experience over the past 5 years  
College major  
Anticipated graduation date  
Citizenship information

**A transcript** of all college course work.

**A letter of recommendation** from a college instructor or official who knows you and can provide an assessment of your potential to integrate academic theory with practical application **or list of references**.

**A letter** describing your career goals and objectives.

**A DI-1935**, Applicant Background Survey (form is optional).

**A DD214**, if you are claiming veteran's preference. Veteran's with 30% or more disability, will also need to submit a recent (last 12 months) letter from the VA or DO certifying receipt of compensation for a service connected disability of 30% or more.

***Mail Application Packages to:***

US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Human Resources Management Center  
Attn: Julia Rael  
Denver Federal Center, Building 50  
PO Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225-0047

***Questions may be directed to:***

Julia Rael  
303-236-6705  
Julia\_Rael@blm.gov

Romella Arnold  
202-452-5101

The initial closing date for applications is February 15, 2000. The final closing date is April 7, 2000. Completed applications must be postmarked by that date for consideration.

Candidates will be notified when their completed application has been received and when it is referred for selection.

The Bureau of Land Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applications will be considered regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.

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Applicant's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a United States Citizen (please indicated the appropriate response):      Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

***Location Preference***

Please indicate the geographic location you would be most interested in working in:

Alaska	_____	Arizona	_____
California	_____	Colorado	_____
Idaho	_____	Montana	_____
Nevada	_____	New Mexico	_____
Oregon	_____	Utah	_____
Virginia	_____	Washington, DC	_____
Wyoming	_____		

***Instructions:***

All application packages must contain all of the following documents:

- Application Coversheet
- Resume or Federal Application (OF-612)
- Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation or a List of Reference
- Letter Describing Career Goals and Objectives
- DI-1935 (Optional)
- DD214 (If applying for Veterans Preference)

Completed applications must be postmarked by either the first closing date of **February 15, 2000** or the second closing date of **April 7, 2000**